

REMARKS

1. Support for the amendment to the specification at original paragraph 22 is found in the drawings at Figure 1. In Figure 1, it is clear the first end (14) of the base (12) is L-shaped and the second end (16) of the base (12) is L-shaped and that each end includes a short side and a long side. Further, it is clear from Figure 1, the first end (14) is opposed to the second end (16) and that the short sides of each end (14) and (16) extend from a common surface (15) of the base (12), as such this amendment does not introduce new matter.

2. Figure 1 is currently amended to add reference numeral "15" the surface of the base (12).

3. Claims 1-21 are canceled without prejudice.

4. Claim 22 as recited above is patentable under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103 over Khokhar (US 6,185,791), Liu (US 2003/0066169), Hu (US 4,778,125), Lyons (US 5,881,436), and Lassiter (US 6,158,095) taken singularly or in combination.

Claim 22 as recited above calls for a base having opposed first and second L-shaped ends, wherein the long side of each of said first and said second L-shaped ends

are coplanar and wherein the short side of each of said first and said second L-shaped ends extend from a common surface of said base; a slot formed longitudinally through said short side of said second end; a strap having a first end attached to and extending from the end of said short side of said first end of said base, and a second, free end adapted to slide through said slot; and a latch operable to releasably secure said second end of said strap in said slot.

Khokhar (US 6,185,791), Liu (US 2003/0066169), Hu (US 4,778,125), Lyons (US 5,881,436), and Lassiter (US 6,158,095) taken singularly or in combination do not include a base having opposed first and second L-shaped ends where the long side of each end are coplanar, the short side of each L-shaped end extending from a common surface, and a slot formed longitudinally through the short side of the second L-shaped end.

5. Claims 23-27 as recited above add additional features to independent claim 22, and thus are submitted to be a-fortiori patentable.

6. Claim 28 as recited above is patentable under 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 over Khokhar (US 6,185,791), Liu (US 2003/0066169), Hu (US 4,778,125), Lyons (US 5,881,436), and Lassiter (US 6,158,095) taken singularly or in combination.

Claim 28 as recited above calls for a base of a first L-shaped base member and a second L-shaped base member being telescopically interconnected along the long sides of each of said first and said second L-shaped ends, and wherein the short side of each of said first and said second L-shaped ends extend from a common surface of said base, said short side of said second base member defining a slot formed longitudinally therethrough; a strap having a first end attached to and extending from the end of said short side of said first end of said base, and a second, free end adapted to slide through said slot through said second end of said base, said second end of said strap including a plurality of female pawl elements; and a latch including a male pawl element for engagement with one female pawl element of said plurality of female pawl elements to releasably secure said second end of said strap in said slot formed through said second end of said base, and a lever for releasing said male pawl element from said female pawl element.

Khokhar (US 6,185,791), Liu (US 2003/0066169), Hu (US 4,778,125), Lyons (US 5,881,436), and Lassiter (US 6,158,095) taken singularly or in combination do not include a base of a first L-shaped base member and a second L-shaped base member being telescopically interconnected along the long sides of each of said first and said second L-shaped ends, and wherein the short side of each of said first and said second L-shaped ends extend from a common surface of said base, said short side of said second base member defining a slot formed longitudinally therethrough.

7. Claims 29-32 as recited above add additional features to independent claim 28, and thus are submitted to be a-fortiori patentable.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that:

Claims 22-32, recite distinctions that are of patentable merit under 35 USC 102(b); 35 USC 102(a) and 35 USC 103(a) for the independent claims and thus for each dependent claim as well. Claims 22-32 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested. Allowance of claims 22-32 at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is hereby requested to telephone the undersigned agent of record at 727-538-4144 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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